

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2017 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. Shelley (Chairman), Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk) and Cllr. J. Jones. Kerry Ashdown a journalist from the Staffordshire Newsletter. There were no members of the public present.

1. Chairman's Welcome. Cllr. Shelley welcomed the councillors and Kerry Ashdown to the meeting.

2. Apologies. These were received from Cllr. Clark, Cllr. Harp, Cllr. Stringer and Cllr. Woodward.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. These were approved and signed after correcting Mr West to Mr Westwood.

4. Matters arising. The Chairman reported that he had not received any further news about the Roebuck since the last meeting. Cllr. Davies had seen Mr Westwood. outside the Roebuck on the Saturday following the last Parish Council meeting, presumably to have another look around it. The Clerk was asked to contact Mr Westwood to find out if he still intends to proceed with the purchase.

5. Borough Councillor's Report. No report.

6. County Councillor's Report. No report.

7. Planning.

New Planning Applications July 2017

17/26691/COU Newfields Farm, Cotwalton Lane, Cotwalton. **Retrospective** planning application for the change of use of two existing agricultural buildings for use as liveryies and the storage of sheep and cattle (mixed use). **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

Status of Earlier Applications:

17/26465/FUL Jesmonde, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Detached dormer bungalow to rear of Jesmonde. **AWAITING DECISION.** This application has been 'called in' by Cllr. Beatty for a Committee decision.

17/26372/HOU Stone Heath, Sharpley Heath Road, Hilderstone. Two-storey extension and internal alterations. **ALLOWED.**

17/26565/HOU Raylings House, 2 The Meadows, Hilderstone. Garden room and bay window extension. **AWAITING DECISION.**

17/26067/FUL The Breadstores, Sandon Road. Variation on Condition 6 of previous application 16/23570/LBC. Variation includes cavity drained tanking system to the below ground walls and small detail changes to the timber frame sliding doors. Mainly technical detail. **AWAITING DECISION.**

17/26236/HOU Meadow View, Sharpley Heath Road. Proposed alterations and extensions to existing detached dwelling and detached replacement garage/carport. This will change the property from a bungalow to a two storey house. **ALLOWED.**

8. Traffic and Highways. The following response had been received from Highways in relation to the Speed Indicator Device (SID) being placed in the old location: "The contractor's operatives who install the SIDs for us, had concerns over their personal safety whilst trying to install the signs at their "new" location opposite the village hall (in his words two near misses),

and rather than abandon the visit completely, they opted to install them at the “old” site near to the build-out. There is to be a wider review of the SID programme intended for July, which will cover various aspects of the programme. In light of the above, it may be worth considering another alternative location for the SID in Hilderstone, as it seems that the one opposite the village hall is unlikely to be re-used. I am sure that Richard Rayson will be happy to consider any proposals that the Parish Council come up with in line with health and safety limitations and the views expressed by the installers of the signs”.

Cllr. Parry has suggested to Highways that the process of installing the SID needs to be made safe as the SIDs need to be located where they will do most good in calming traffic speed. The Parish Council will await the outcome of the SID review, but it was agreed that the village hall location was the best. There are also very few locations in the village where installation of the sign would be any easier or safer.

Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership has a new Road Safety Grant Fund which community groups including parish councils can bid for. Grants between £100 and £5,000 are available for projects which: “improve road safety, increase public confidence in the safety of Staffordshire’s roads and support communities to take local responsibility”. The closing date for the initial funding round is 14th September 2017 but there will be further rounds every 6 months over the next two years.

A significant amount of agricultural muck has been dropped in the last few days along Hall Lane by a local farmer. This is likely to cause a road safety hazard when it becomes wet. The situation will be monitored to see if action needs to be taken by the relevant authorities. Farmers are legally required to clear up any significant muck or mud spillages on the highway and there are tools that fix to tractors designed to do this.

The pothole on Hilderstone Road at the bottom of The Meadows is getting larger. The Clerk will report this to Highways.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. The iron railings at Lower Farm have now been fully repaired thanks to Bill Holmes’ assistance. It was agreed that the Village Hall flower boxes look very attractive and hopefully this will have impressed the Best Kept Village Competition judges. The Best Kept Village results presentation evening is on Monday 7th August 2017. Cllr. and Mrs Shelley will attend this to represent Hilderstone. Cllr. Shelley and Cllr. Stringer presented the Best Kept Village Poster Competition prizes at GreenLea School. The pupils seemed excited to have visitors.

There is nothing to report on the footpaths, although there are some large weeds growing on footpath 14.

10. Village Events. Forthcoming events:

- Charity Bingo Night in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution on Friday 15th September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Pay at the door.
- Jumble Sale on Saturday 16th September at 2.00pm in the Village Hall.
- Village Trip to Adam Henson’s Farm in the Cotswolds on Saturday 30th September, departing at 8.30am from the Village Hall. Tickets cost will be £8.50.
- Barn Dance on Friday 17th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.
- Village Christmas Party on Tuesday 12th December at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.
- Village Christmas Concert on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. To be confirmed.

Cllr. Davies reported that the Village Summer Fete sadly had to be held in the Village Hall due to wet weather. It was still well supported and raised just over £400. Quite a few people from outside of Hilderstone attended. Cllr. Crump reported that the Village Hall Committee still hopes to run more film nights. If the nights are fully self-financed, the ticket price would need to be £7.00 per person. The Village Hall Committee still needs to apply for a licence to run the Pop-Up pubs, but the future of these will depend on what happens with the Roebuck.

11. Correspondence.

- Police and Fire Consultation Email with Full Business Case.
- Electoral Register Changes
- Notice of Subsidised Bus Review Consultation.
- Members' Digest 233

The Police and Fire Consultation Business Case document is very lengthy but there is a very short summary. The Parish Council agreed that in principle, merging the two services would make sense if it reduces administration costs and improves frontline services. The Parish Council would not like to see it resulting in a reduction in the number of Police and Fire Fighting Officers.

It was agreed that as Hilderstone only has one bus service per day it is unlikely to have any major influence on the outcome of the Subsidised Bus Review and will not spend time responding to consultation.

Members' Digest 232 (Cllr. Crump). Stafford Borough has a new Mayor; Councillor Aidan Godfrey.

Another Stafford resident has been rewarded with £75.00 for providing evidence on a dog walker who did not clear up its mess.

12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £8471.30 in credit and the deposit account £3121.04 in credit. Although most of these funds are allocated as indicated by the monthly accounts which are circulated to all Councillors prior to each meeting. The following payments were approved:

1. Cllr. J.Crump, Best Kept Village Poster Competition Voucher Prizes - £20.00.
2. Mr W.H. Holmes, Village and Highways Maintenance July 2017 - £104.00.

13. Any Other Business. The hedge at Priory Cottage is in need of cutting again, as it is starting to overhang the pavement. The parking issues at the bottom of The Meadows caused by the builders, has moved further up the hill. Hopefully this will resolve itself once the works are completed.

Cllr. Shelley represented the Parish Council at the inauguration of the new Vicar, The Reverend Marion Reynolds who will serve both Hilderstone and Fulford.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd August 2017 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

..... Cllr. R. Shelley, Chairman. 23.08.17